

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SCI-06 COA-02 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2292

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

DOD WASHDC

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09149

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, PINR, TPHY, UK, FR, NO

SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN WEATHER STATION PROJECT

1. BROADBENT (DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR AIR, MOD) CALLED IN EMBOFFS ON 19 JULY TO RAISE QUESTION OF POSITION HMG SHOULD TAKE AT 5 AUGUST GENEVA MEETING OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN OR BENEFITING FROM DATA COLLECTED BY NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN WEATHER STATION (NAOWS) PROJECT. HE SAID VARIOUS BRITISH OFFICIALS HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH U.S. COUNTERPARTS BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON BUT THAT NO FIRM U.S. VIEW RE LINE TO BE TAKEN BY HMG AT GENEVA HAD BEEN RECEIVED.

2. BRIEFLY, GENEVA MEETING WILL ADDRESS PARTICIPATION IN NEXT PHASE OF NAOWS PROJECT WITH LIKELIHOOD THAT GROUP WILL ACCEPT SOVIET OFFER TO FUND AND MAN ONE OF FOUR PLANNED METEOROLOGICAL SHIP STATIONS UNLESS STRONG REPRESENTATIONS ARE MADE BY ONE OR MORE OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND SOME REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO SOVIET PROPOSAL IS PUT FORTH. BROADBENT SAID THAT AMONG PARTICIPANTS, ONLY HMG SEEMED CONCERNED BY SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

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OF A PERMANENT SOVIET PRESENCE AT STATION CHARLIE (52 DE-

GREES 45 MINUTES NORTH, 35 DEGREES 30 MINUTES WEST) AND THAT OTHERS, NOTABLY FRG, WERE ATTRACTED BY FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF SOVIET OFFER.

3. BROADBENT SAID HMG NEEDS TO HEAR FROM US ASAP RE POSSIBLE RENEWED U.S. PARTICIPATION. IF OUR DECISION IS POSITIVE, HE IS CONFIDENT SOVIET PROPOSAL CAN BE FINESSED; LACKING IT HOWEVER, ACCEPTANCE APPEARS INEVITABLE.

4. FINAL DECISION ON MANNING OF STATION CHARLIE ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE TAKEN AT 5 AUGUST MEETING. WE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT, WHILE HMG IS NOT KEEN FOR SOVIET PARTICIPATION, IT WOULD GO ALONG IF THE U.S. HAS NO OBJECTION. BROADBENT CLEARLY WOULD BE HAPPIER, HOWEVER, IF HMG COULD GO TO GENEVA WITH A U.S. DECISION TO MAN STATION CHARLIE, SO THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS COULD BE FOCUSED ON INTERRUPTING SOVIET OFFER.

5. REQUEST GUIDANCE.

SOHM

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